

Serial No. 10/616,221
Art Unit 2125

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 17, 19, and 20 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant request for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time to discuss the present application on April 14, 2005.

Claims 1 through 17, 19, and 20 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,231,196 to Mahachek (Mahachek).

Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

Independent claim 1 recites the steps of "cutting the medium along the desired cut line via said computer aided laser system" and "etching said photo image to the medium via said computer aided laser system". Independent claim 12 recites the steps of "cutting the medium along an outline of said photo image via said computer aided laser system" and "writing said photo image to the medium via said computer aided laser system".

As acknowledged by the Interview Summary, Mahachek does not disclose or suggest the steps of both cutting and etching. Accordingly, the laser marking of mirrors taught by Mahachek simply does not disclose or suggest the cutting and etching recited by claim 1 or the cutting and writing recited by claim 12. Claims 1 and 12 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2 through 11 and 13 through 17 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from the aforementioned claims 1 and 12, respectively. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 through 17 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 19 is directed to a picture frame that includes, in part, a protruding portion. The protruding portion has an image etched thereon and has an outline substantially

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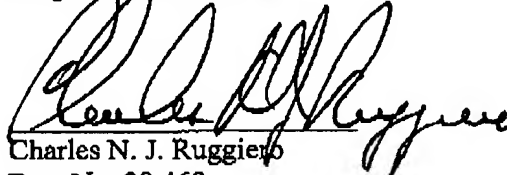
similar to a contour of the picture.

Again as acknowledged by the Interview Summary, Mahachek does not disclose or suggest the steps of both cutting and etching. Since Mahachek does not disclose or suggest the steps of both cutting and etching, Mahachek simply can not disclose or suggest the picture frame having a protruding portion that includes both an image etched thereon and has an outline substantially similar to a contour of the picture as recited by claim 19. Claim 19 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 20 is also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that it depends from the aforementioned claim 19. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 19 and 20 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited. In the alternative, it is respectfully submitted that the instant request for reconsideration places the application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry of the instant request for reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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